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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,920	04/14/2004	Imtiaz Rangwalla	05716.0013-00000	6117

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EXAMINER

SHEWAREGED, BETELHEM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1774

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-26 and 38, drawn to layered material, classified in class 428, subclass 195.1.

II. Claims 27-37, drawn to method of making, classified in class 427, subclass 1+.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process, (i.e., providing the substrate, applying the ink formulation on the substrate, forming a thin film comprising the lacquer, and laminating the thin film on the ink side of the substrate).

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. During a telephone conversation with Maria T. Bautista on 12/15/2005 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-26 and 38. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to

this Office action. Claims 27-37 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-26 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rangwalla et al. (US 2003/0001108 A1) in view of Pennaz (US 5,382,282).

Rangwalla discloses a packaging material comprising a substrate, a lacquer coating on the substrate, and an ink print layer between the substrate and the ink print layer, wherein the lacquer coating substantially identical to the claimed lacquer ([0097]-[0108]), and has a normalized thickness of 0.5-20 g/m² [0109]. The substrate is disclosed in [0112]. The lacquer is curable by particle beam machine [0110] and [0111]. Sandwiching the print layer and any intermediate layer between materials that are used for forming the substrate is well known in the packaging material art (see Example 8). The ink in the print layer can be electron beam curable [0116]. Rangwalla does not disclose the claimed ink composition.

Pennaz teaches an electron beam curable ink composition for printing, wherein the ink composition is disclosed in (col. 20, lines 1-43).

Rangwalla and Pennaz are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is the particle beam curable material art. At the time of the invention, it

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would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the ink composition of Pennaz with the invention of Rangwalla so as to provide a printed packaging material containing ink composition having enhanced water stability and viscosity (see col. 19, line 38 of Pennaz).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Betelhem Shewareged whose telephone number is 571-272-1529. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on 571-272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

B.S.
January 7, 2006.


BETELHEM SHEWAREGED
PRIMARY EXAMINER